

DEC 2 1965

## SNOWDOWN Due With De Gaulle

By ROBERT S. ALLEN  
and PAUL SCOTT



Mr. Allen

The U.S. and Britain are preparing to press for a potentially fateful showdown with President de Gaulle.

Shortly after the December 5 election, in which the imperious 75-year-old French leader is certain to be re-elected, Prime Minister Wilson will make a new bid for membership in the six-nation European Common Market.

This momentous move will have the full and forceful support of the U.S.

While not a member of the Common Market, the U.S. will exert the utmost economic, financial and political influence in Britain's behalf.

Toward that end it will be announced that an Anglo-American conference will be held to deliberate possible far-reaching changes in the international monetary system.

Japan and a number of other countries favor such a parley, and have signified willingness to participate.

So far, the De Gaulle government has been against a world monetary conference.

Washington and London authorities are privately saying flatly this meeting will be held regardless of whether the French attend or not. Declared one high-placed U.S. official:

"France's presence isn't necessary. The U.S. dollar and the British pound constitute the free world monetary system. The French franc is of no consequence as an international currency. If De Gaulle wants to be haughty and self-willed, let him. He won't be missed. On the other hand, his country has everything to lose and nothing to gain by abstaining."

Another important authority stressed the determination "to take the initiative as soon as the French election is out of the way."

"De Gaulle has had his obstructive and disruptive way too long," he asserted. "Re-elected for a second term, he will undoubtedly intensify his efforts to put over his ultra-nationalistic concepts. We don't intend to sit idly by and wait for him to move. It is our fixed intention to act first."

Backstage discussions on the double-barreled U.S.-British strategy have been underway for some time. Also taking part in these closely guarded talks have been the governments of

al other countries.

De Gaulle blocked an attempt by a conservative British government to gain admittance to the Common Market several years ago.

While no actual vote was taken, he made it bluntly clear he was prepared to exercise France's veto power to bar Britain. Under the Common Market charter, a unanimous vote is required on major decisions.

Significantly indicative of what is afoot is a little-noticed statement by Senator Vance Hartke, D-Ind., urging U.S. backing of British entry into the Common Market and the convening of an Anglo-American monetary conference.

An influential member of the Finance and Commerce Committees, Hartke is in Japan with a group of other senators discussing financial and economic problems. They are scheduled to hold similar talks in India and Pakistan. On their return they will report to President Johnson.

Pointing out that "both the dollar and pound are now strong and stable," Hartke held "there is no better time to iron out our international monetary problems and to improve trade balances."

"The U.S. should throw its full weight behind Britain's admission to the Common Market," continued Hartke. "We should take the initiative on that, and force a showdown with De Gaulle if necessary. It's time we backed our friends in the struggle for international monetary and economic stability."

"Anglo-American cooperation has traditionally found form in three fields — trade, money and politics. The U.S. has just helped Britain through the worst crisis ever faced by the pound. Now the U.S. has the opportunity to give vital assistance to Britain's foreign policy, which means helping ourselves."

"On the European continent the U.S. can back Britain on a new bid to enter the Common Market. That can be accomplished by exerting so much leverage against De Gaulle that he will have to let Britain in. For that purpose a bilateral conference on international monetary reform, convened by the U.S. and Britain, could do a great deal to 'persuade' France to bargain."